STAFF SUMMARY OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN THE 113TH U.S. CONGRESS

A summary of recent Federal legislation is attached. This summary is intended as a general overview for discussion purposes. Full text of these bills, with background information and current status, can be found at the Library of Congress website (http://thomas.gov) or at http://govtrack.us. These summaries are primarily from the GovTrack.us website, further summarized by Council staff.

In addition, two issues that the Council has been following were resolved at the end of the 113th Congress.

**Vessel Incidental Discharge Act**

The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act was incorporated into the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, signed into law on December 18, 2014. The Act extends the current exemption for all fishing vessels of any size (and non-fishing vessels under 79 feet) from the Environmental Protection Agency’s NPDES\(^1\) discharge permit requirements. The EPA regulations were previously poised to take effect on December 18, 2014; the exemption was extended until December 18, 2017.

**REFI Act**

The REFI Act (HR 2646) was included at the last minute in the National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law on December 19, 2014. The Act lowers the interest rate on the 2003 Federal trawl buyback loan. In 2003, the interest rate was 6.7 percent; it has now been lowered to the current Treasury rate (which is several points lower), and the loan term was extended to 45 years. In addition, the NOAA recovery fee is capped at 3 percent. The total annual savings to fleet (120 active vessels) is estimated at over $1 million per year. The bill was sponsored by Jaime Herrera-Beutler (WA), Maria Cantwell (WA), Peter DeFazio (OR), and Jared Huffman (CA).

PFMC
03/02/15

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\(^1\) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
# Fishery Bills in the 114th Congress (and Selected State Bills)

## California state bill

### AB 226 Pacific to Plate
- **Introduced**: 2/3/2015
- **Sponsor**: Toni Atkins (Cal Assembly)
- **Status**: Last updated: 2/10/2015
- **Companion bill**: None
- **Description**: Would clarify and streamline state laws that currently treat fish markets differently from other food facilities. Would allow fishermen’s markets to operate as food facilities; allow fresh fish to be cleaned for direct sale at the markets; streamline the permitting process, so commercial fishermen can organize under a single permit.

## House

### HR 291 Water in the 21st Century Act (W21)
- **Introduced**: 1/13/2015
- **Sponsor**: Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
- **Cosponsors**: All D
- **Status**: Reintroduced
- **Companion bill**: S 176 (Boxer)
- **Last updated**: 3/2/2015
- **Description**: Sets up $1.95 billion in loans and grants over 5 years for water recycling, storm water capture and treatment, ground water management and water infrastructure projects. Sets aside $6 million to study the feasibility of desalination.

### HR 330 Marine Access and State Transparency
- **Introduced**: 1/13/2015
- **Sponsor**: Don Young (R-AK)
- **Cosponsors**: None
- **Status**: Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
- **Companion bill**: HR 900 (Labrador), S 437 (Murkowski), S 228 (Crapo)
- **Last updated**: 2/17/2015
- **Description**: To amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Introduced Date</th>
<th>Sponsor(s)</th>
<th>Cosponsors</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Companion Bill</th>
<th>Last Updated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 337</td>
<td><strong>Maritime Lien Reform Act</strong></td>
<td>1/13/2015</td>
<td>Don Young (R-AK)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Reintroduced</td>
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<td>3/2/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 393</td>
<td><strong>Untitled (Labeling of GMO fish)</strong></td>
<td>1/14/2015</td>
<td>Don Young (R-AK)</td>
<td>6, bipartisan</td>
<td>Reintroduced</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/17/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 528</td>
<td><strong>Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act</strong></td>
<td>1/26/2015</td>
<td>Dan Benishek (R-MI)</td>
<td>35, all R</td>
<td>Reintroduced</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/17/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 564</td>
<td><strong>Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act</strong></td>
<td>1/27/2015</td>
<td>Kurt Schrader (D-OR) &amp; Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-WA)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reintroduced</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/2/2015</td>
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<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Bill Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 774</td>
<td>Untitled (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act)</td>
<td>2/5/2015</td>
<td>Reintroduced</td>
<td>Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam)</td>
<td>12, bipartisan</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/2/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 900</td>
<td>National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act</td>
<td>2/11/2015</td>
<td>Referred to House Natural Resources Committee</td>
<td>Raul Labrador (R-ID)</td>
<td>6, all R</td>
<td>HR 330 (Young), S 437 (Murkowski), S 228 (Crapo)</td>
<td>2/17/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 980</td>
<td>Vessel Incidental Discharge Act</td>
<td>2/13/2015</td>
<td>Reported by committee 2/26/15.</td>
<td>Duncan Hunter (R-CA)</td>
<td>2 (bipartisan)</td>
<td>S 373 (Rubio)</td>
<td>3/2/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 981</td>
<td>Red Snapper Regulatory Reform Act</td>
<td>2/13/2015</td>
<td>Introduced</td>
<td>Bradley Byrne (R-AK)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/17/2015</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Senate**

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S 132  **Oregon and California Land Grant Act**

**Introduced 1/8/2015**
A bill to improve timber management on Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant land, and for other purposes. Increases some harvest, protects other forests.

**Sponsor:** Ron Wyden (D-OR)  
**Cosponsors:** 1  
**Status:** Reintroduced  
**Companion bill:**  
**Last updated:** 2/10/2015

S 133  **Klamath Basin Water Recovery and Economic Restoration Act**

**Introduced 1/8/2015**
A bill to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin, etc. Discussed by LC in June 2014.

**Sponsor:** Ron Wyden (D-OR)  
**Cosponsors:** 3, all D  
**Status:** Reintroduced  
**Companion bill:**  
**Last updated:** 3/2/2015

S 176  **W21**

**Introduced 1/13/2015**
A bill to advance integrated water management and development through innovation, resiliency, conservation, and efficiency in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Barbara Boxer (D-CA)  
**Cosponsors:** 2  
**Status:** Reintroduced  
**Companion bill:** HR 291 (Napolitano)  
**Last updated:** 2/3/2015

S 190  **Imported Seafood Safety Standards Act**

**Introduced 1/20/2015**
Amends the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit importation of seafood into the U.S. from a foreign country unless the seafood is certified compliant with U.S. standards. Foreign export facilities and twenty percent of all imported seafood would be inspected yearly. Foreign seafood could only be imported at ports that have personnel trained to conduct inspections.

**Sponsor:** David Vitter (R-LA)  
**Cosponsors:** 0  
**Status:** Introduced  
**Companion bill:**  
**Last updated:** 3/2/2015
Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act

A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from a definition under that Act.

Sponsor: John Thune (R-SD)  
Cosponsors: 1  
Status: Reintroduced  
Companion bill: S 405 (Murkowski)

National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015

A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments.

Sponsor: Michael Crapo (R-ID)  
Cosponsors: 16, all R  
Status: Referred to Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
Companion bill: HR 900 (Labrador), S 437 (Murkowski), HR 330 (Young)

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

A bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

Sponsor: Marco Rubio (R-FL)  
Cosponsors: 19, bipartisan  
Status: Reported by committee 2/26/15  
Companion bill: HR 980  
Last updated: 3/2/2015

Untitled (Sportsmen's Act)

A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)  
Cosponsors: 5, bipartisan  
Status: Reintroduced. Reported by committee 2/9/2015. Placed on Senate calendar.  
Companion bill: HR 225 (Thune), S 556 (Murkowski)  
Last updated: 3/2/2015
**S 437**  
**Improved National Monument Designation Process Act**  
Introduced 2/10/2015

A bill to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for the declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)  
**Cosponsors:** 1  
**Status:** Reintroduced. Referred to Senate Energy and Natural Resources.  
**Companion bill:** HR 900 (Labrador), S 228 (Crapo), HR 330 (Young)  
**Last updated:** 2/17/2015

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**S 556**  
**Untitled (Congressional approval of monuments)**  
Introduced 2/25/2015

A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes

**Sponsor:** Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)  
**Cosponsors:** 0  
**Status:** Reintroduced  
**Companion bill:** HR 225 (Thune), S 405 (Murkowski)  
**Last updated:** 2/25/2015

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Note: Grades in boxes on the left side are priority ratings. A, B, C = immediately relevant (in decreasing importance) to Pacific Council fisheries or having to do with major changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. D, F = Interesting for other reasons, such as setting a precedent or indirectly affecting Council-managed fisheries. Names in parentheses are used when current legislation is untitled but similar legislation was submitted in previous congress by the same sponsor.